

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14363 062148Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9756
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14363

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EO PDEV UK RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: THE BINGHAM REPORT

REF: STATE 224180

1. CHARGE DREW ON REFTEL TO DISCUSS BINGHAM REPORT WITH MICHAEL PALLISER AND TONY DUFF, WHO SAID THAT HMG IS TAKING STEPS TO SPEED UP PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT BUT THAT IT IS VERY DOUBTFUL A COPY OR EXTRACTS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE, EVEN ON HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION.

2. ELABORATING ON REASONS FOR RETICENCE, DUFF SAID THERE IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN PRIOR TO PUBLICATION FROM ALL THOSE WHO FURNISHED INFORMATION THEIR
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APPROVAL OF RELEVANT SECTIONS. AUTHORIZATIONS ARE BEING SOUGHT URGENTLY, BUT SOME ARE STILL OUTSTANDING AND REFUSALS MAY RESULT IN EXCISION OF PORTIONS OF THE REPORT, WHICH THEN MUST BE SPLICED THROUGH RE-EDITING.

3. DUFF (POTECT) ALSO TOLD CHARGE THAT MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE DECISIONS ON THE PUBLICATION DATE AND

RELATED MATTERS AT A CABINET MEETING SEPTEMBER 7. HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD OPT TO KEEP THE REPORT "UNDER LOCK AND KEY UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MINUTE" TO AVOID LEAKS.

4. REGARDING REFERENCES TO US FIRMS, DUFF SAID THE REPORT FOCUSES ON UK COMPANIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INQUIRY'S MANDATE. THOUGH HE HAD NOT REVIEWED THE FULL TEXT, HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE REFERENCES TO US AND FRENCH FIRMS ARE ONLY INCIDENTAL. AFTER CHARGE UNDERLINED AGAIN THE STRONG US INTEREST IN HAVING AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION TO HELP IN PREPARING A USG POSITION, DUFF SAID MINISTERS HAD BEEN TOLD OF US INTEREST FOLLOWING CHARGE'S INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH PALLISER. DUFF'S PRESENTATION, HE MADE CLEAR, WAS BASED ON HIGH-LEVEL GUIDANCE. HE ALSO REITERATED HIS DOUBT THAT, EVEN IN LIGHT OF OUR CLEAR INTEREST, MINISTERS WOULD AGREE TO MAKE AVAILABLE A COPY MORE THAN A DAY BEFORE PUBLICATION. IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGE OF VIEW, HE PROMISED TO LET US KNOW.

5. DUFF SAID THAT, IN ANTICIPATION OF US INTEREST, THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RELAY TO THE DEPARTMENT SOME OF THE FOREGOING POINTS.

STREATOR

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NNN

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